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Patent Application No.

Applicant: Ihme et al.

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

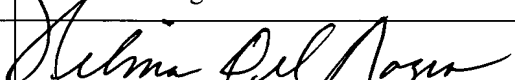
Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 7 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 10 of this paper.

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